

Application No. 10/053,675
Art Unit: 3723

Attorney Docket No. 20154.00
Confirmation No. 8412

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant proposes to amend Claims 1 and 3, and cancel Claims 2 and 7-9. Upon entry of the proposed amendment, Claims 1 and 3-6 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 1,536,553) or Sharp (U.S. Patent No. 5,504,982). The Examiner indicated that Claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 2. The incorporated claim has been canceled and the dependency of Claim 3 has been changed to now depend from Claim 1. The cancellation of Claims 7-9 by the present amendment should serve to render the prior art rejections of record moot with respect to these claims. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, as amended, and corresponding dependent Claims 2-6 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed amendments made herein properly respond to the outstanding Final Rejection and represent a *bona fide* effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application. Care has been exercised to ensure that no new matter has been introduced and that no

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new issues have been raised that would require further consideration or search. In the event that the application is not allowed, it is requested that this amendment be entered for purposes of appeal.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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